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June 2022 Connecting the DOTs

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What is the most important leadership skill you developed through the LDP? Active listening, really listening without judgment, without offering an opinion. (Keith)

What is the most surprising thing you learned about yourself and your leadership style through the LDP program?

The LDP program isn't a walk in the park. You will be challenged. You are asked to reflect upon yourself and apply what you are taught to your daily life. It was challenging to look deep inside and accept the fact that there are certain parts of who I am that need to change in order to become a leader, and more importantly, a better person. (Dustin)

Why would you encourage others to apply to the LDP program?

A very worthwhile career-development experience that you will not get at your desk. (Andy)

How would you describe the LDP experience in one sentence?

My LDP experience was a time of personal growth and relationship building. (Margo)

Recruiting Cohort #3 Leadership Development Program (LDP)

LDP APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, JULY 18, 2022

SD ZA

LDP GOALS:

- Foster employees' professional
 & leadership development
- Explore leadership styles
- Develop skills to promote team building
- Strengthen internal and external relationships

Apply Now!

Read the LDP description: https://app.box.com/s/cvytsfh0349al phfh6cbjup8qkecip09

Complete the application:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D OT-LDP-App-FY23

Questions?

Please contact Brenda Thomas at 605-773-2923 or Brenda.Thomas@state.sd.us.

SDDOT Mission:

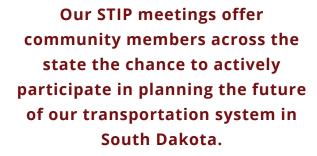
To efficiently provide a safe and effective public transportation system

SDDOT Vision:

Better lives through better transportation by being the best



The Secretary's Corner





SDDOT will offer in-person and virtual public presentations for the Tentative 2023-2026 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Four presentations will be offered at locations across the state during the month of July. In addition to the in-person meetings, SDDOT will also offer a virtual option for each of the four public meetings.

The STIP is a four-year program listing projects developed through the coordinated efforts of the Department of Transportation, Transportation Commission, state and federal agencies, local and tribal governments, metropolitan planning organizations, public agencies, transportation providers, citizens, and other interested parties. The program identifies highway and intermodal improvements to preserve, renovate, and enhance South Dakota's transportation system.

Tentative 2023-2026 STIP meetings:

Pierre Region Meeting: Aberdeen Region Meeting:

July 7, 2022 July 12, 2022

Mitchell Region Meeting: Rapid City Region Meeting:

July 13, 2022 July 14, 2022

Each meeting is planned to be recorded and posted when available. For complete information about the tentative STIP, including maps and reports by region, please view the SDDOT website at https://dot.sd.gov/projects-studies/planning/tentative-statewide-transportation-improvement-program-stip.

The SDDOT begins the yearly update of the STIP in mid-April, however, public input is welcome year-round. If you have any suggestions you would like to offer concerning improvements to the state's transportation system, contact Levi Briggs, STIP Coordinator.

Mike Behm's FB Live event invited people to engage in the STIP meetings. Click on Mike's photo to see the live video recording.





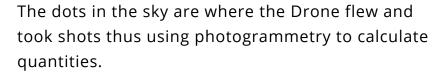
If you didn't have an opportunity to watch Craig Smith's **May Monthly Division Report**, please take a few minutes to click on the video to learn more about topics such as:

- FY23 salary policy and pay structures
- Targeted pay plans
- Career banding
- · Pay structure minimums for hiring



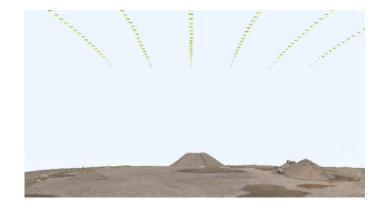
Drone Work in Surveying By Cody Asher - Survey Crew Chief/Drone Pilot

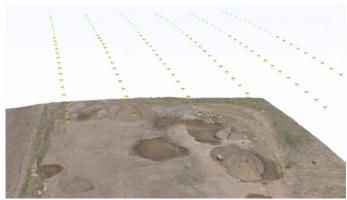
Drones can't possibly replace a surveyor on a job site but they can be a valuable tool in a surveyor's toolbox. Using the DOT's Autel Evo II drone for stockpile quantities has considerable advantages over conventional ground surveying since it can provide a far truer representation of the actual shapes of the ground and stockpiles. Below are a few pictures of the capabilities of mapping a site using drone technology.



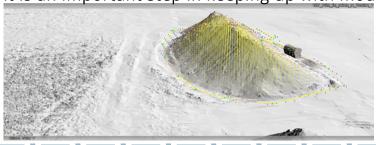
The four advantages are:

- 1) Speed
- 2) Accuracy
- 3) Cost
- 4) Safety





A FAA certified professional drone pilot sends the drone into the air to fly along a pre-planned flight path to ensure comprehensive data collection. This fast moving technology not only greatly benefits SDDOT, it is an important step in keeping up with modern industry practices.



SDDOT Materials Lab Earns AASHTO Proficiency By Montana Mraz, Materials Laboratory Tech



Each year, the Materials Lab receives two proficiency test samples from AASHTO to test how well our test procedures and our equipment compare to all of the other facilities that partake in AASHTO accreditation.

Results from all participating facilities are compiled and averaged, in which our SDDOT results are compared and given a Z-score (an absolute value that rates the work of our lab).

A rating of five is the best that a lab can do in performing that test. A rating of three or four is good as well (but may need consideration on what could've been done to better results). Any rating lower than a three means that we need to investigate what happened, and what we can do to improve that certain test (or tests).

This year, the materials lab did very well, and earned ratings of five for all of tests, except the liquid limit of soils in which we received a rating of four. Mike Behm noted, "This recent round of ratings may possibly be the best that the Soils Lab has earned since the SDDOT joined AASHTO as a federal accredited lab."

Pictured is Joe Feller (right) presented a certificate for this great achievement to the Material Lab staff, Montana Mraz and Jason Arnold.



A Draft State Rail Plan Workshop was held in person at the SDDOT on June 15, 2022.

The Draft State Rail Plan is available online for review through July 14, 2022 at https://southdakotasrp.com/.



The South Dakota State Rail Plan (SRP) will be submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

Once approved by the FRA, the SRP will maximize the opportunities for federal infrastructure investment in South Dakota.



Strategic Objective: Continually Improve

Virtual Public Involvement Conversations Video Series By Tom Lehmkuhl, FHWA Environmental Protection Specialist

I invite you to view four new case study videos to close out the <u>Virtual Public Involvement</u> (<u>VPI) Conversations Video Series</u>. This series features short conversations (approximately ten minutes each) with professionals involved in VPI efforts at their respective agencies. Agencies and topics featured in these videos are listed below.

The first videos in this series featured Virginia DOT, Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Georgia DOT, and Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. They are available on FHWA's YouTube **VPI Conversations** playlist.

The new batch of VPI Conversations Videos include:

- Alaska DOT & PF
 - Virtual Meetings
 - Social Media
 - Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Videos
- Michigan DOT with Kari Martin
 - Virtual Meetings
 - Online Surveys
 - Institutionalizing VPI

- Michigan DOT with Brad Sharlow
 - Online Surveys
 - Accessibility
 - Telephone Town Halls
 - Reaching Rural Communities
- Indianapolis MPO
 - Online Surveys
 - o Do-it-Yourself Videos
 - Online Meetings through Social Media

These videos were produced as part of FHWA's EDC/VPI Initiative. As a reminder, the <u>FHWA VPI website</u> includes a variety of resources to assist State DOTs and MPOs with implementing the VPI initiative including fact sheets, peer exchanges, and case study videos.

TODAY | WILL

Please also use our recently updated **SDDOT Public Involvement Plan**. You can find the full PIP document, and a summary doc for easy guidance, by clicking on the links below:

SDDOT Public Involvement Plan (PIP)
Summary Document

2022 Pavement Marking Conference

By Jon Suomala -Operations Traffic Engineer



A demonstration of the Rapid City Region paint truck was given at the Deadwood Maintenance Shop.

After not meeting for an in-person conference since May 2018, representatives from all four Regions and Central Office recently met in Deadwood for the 2022 SDDOT Pavement Marking Conference. The conference is an opportunity for those involved in pavement marking installation or plan preparation to learn about the latest developments in the pavement marking industry, and to share best practices with their statewide counterparts.

The conference was started in 2014 by former Rapid City Region Traffic Engineer, Monica Heller, as a way to utilize the knowledge and experience already within the SDDOT to help improve our pavement marking processes, materials, and equipment. Ensuing conferences were also held in 2016 in Sioux Falls, which included a tour of the Diamond Vogel and EZ-Liner plants in Orange City, Iowa, and in 2018 in Deadwood, which was a combined meeting with the Wyoming DOT.

Presentations this year included representatives from 3M, EZ-Liner, and Diamond Vogel sharing information about their products including tips and tricks for extending the life of the product as much as possible. The agenda was also heavy on open discussions among the SDDOT crews on the topics of safety, inventory methods, equipment, and materials. SDDOT personnel were also among those who gave presentations as Kimberly Zerr, GIS Coordinator, gave an introduction to the new pavement marking inventory app, and Darren Griese, Pierre Region Traffic Engineer, gave his thoughts on the best ways to use elements in our paint. The group also went over the pavement marking topics discussed with DOT representatives from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri at the recent Upper Midwest Peer Exchange on Traffic Engineering to see if we can make any improvements based on the other states' experiences.

Overall, 39 people were in attendance at the two-day conference, the venue of which was split between the classroom and the SDDOT Deadwood Maintenance Shop, where demonstrations were given using the Rapid City Region paint truck. The gathering was also used to celebrate the careers of Doran Raymond and Mark Nagel, who are each retiring in June, and thank them for all they have meant to the pavement marking circle in South Dakota.

With such knowledge and experience moving on from the SDDOT, it was great to be able to meet and see that information passed along to those new to pavement marking with the SDDOT.

SDDOT Community Access Grant Increases Safety for Crazy Horse School

When the funding was originally received, Silas Blaine, Superintendent of Crazy Horse School noted, "... it is a dream come true knowing we will have a safe road with a much-needed sidewalk with lighting for our students who walk to and from school."

Crazy Horse School is located in the community of Wanblee in the Eagle Nest District on the northeastern part of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. It has a K-12 grade enrollment of 306 students.

Below is a recent letter received to express appreciation to the SDDOT. Mr. Blaine also sent before and after photos of the project.

Board Members: Monica Terkildsen Tonia Dull Knife Avril Livermont Sue Yellow Elk Richard Meyers

CRAZY HORSE SCHOOL

Tasunke Witko Owayawa
P.O. Box 260
245 Crazy Horse School Drive
Wanblee, South Dakota 57577
PHONE: (605) 462-6792 FAX: (605) 462-6510



June 6, 2022

Paula Huizenga South Dakota Department of Transportation Office of Local Government Assistance Becker-Hansen Building 700 E. Broadway Ave. Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Ms. Huizenga,

On behalf of the Crazy Horse School, students, staff, parents/guardians, and community I am writing to formally thank you for the South Dakota Department of Transportation award in the amount of \$600,000 on December 19, 2018, for the Crazy Horse School for Road Project.

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community awarded Crazy Horse School total \$500,000.00 which was used as our 43-percent match to apply for South Dakota Department of Transportation Community Access Road Grant.

The Crazy Horse Road Project was completed on January 26, 2021, however, due to Covid-19 restrictions on Pine Ridge Reservation travel was restricted not allowing officially to thank you in a more appropriate manner.

I am including pictures taken of Crazy Horse School students walking on the school road prior to construction and after completion of the Road Project.

If not for your generous donation we could never have repaired the road, added a sidewalk with lighting and achieved our long sought after goal of providing our children with a safe means of walking to and from school.

Sincerely,

Silas Blaine, Superintendent









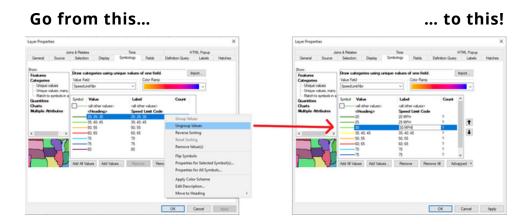
Changing the Symbology of DataHound Layers

By Kathryn Wesson



South Dakota's DataHound is one of the most useful tools for everyday map-making – but did you know that as the end user, you still have total control over how you need the data to look? Although DataHound layers come pre-symbolized based on how we think it will best accommodate everyone's needs, the symbology can be adjusted much like any other dataset that you would pull straight off the network drives.

Simply right click the layer from your Table of Contents and select Properties. From there, you can go to the Symbology tab and change settings like symbol groups or line width and color. For example, say we wanted to break down the Speed Limit layer from DataHound so that every increment is a different color. Right-click the symbol group under the Symbology tab within the layer's Properties, then select "Ungroup Values."



Click the line symbol directly to the left of the value's label to change the graphic properties, such as making it a dashed line, along with adjusting the line width and color. Now click the line symbol directly to the left of the value's label to change the graphic properties, such as making it a dashed line, along with adjusting the line width and color. Now you have a layer that shows each speed limit as a unique color.



If you don't like the way a layer looks on DataHound, remember that you can use the Symbology tab to adjust it the way you want! Questions? Contact the GIS team!

June Mentoring Minute Make a Positive Impact at the DOT

By Wyatt Reis and June Hansen



As part of the mentoring committee, we take turns coming up with something to share in the newsletter each month. Wyatt had the idea to share information about making a positive impact at work. Mentoring is one way to make a positive impact at the DOT. But there are things we all can do every day to make a positive impact at work.

I found an article online from the Indeed Editorial Team that really gave good suggestions about how to make a positive impact at the DOT.

You can read the entire article, which includes great tips, at: https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/impact-at-work.

Below are the 12 ways to make a positive impact at work outlined in the article in more detail:

- Get to know your coworkers.
- Show up to department events.
- Treat others with respect.
- Facilitate better communication.
- Use your problem-solving skills.
- Try to be more empathetic.
- Offer to help others.
- Speak up when you notice something.
- Have a positive attitude.
- Seek feedback from co-workers & supervisor.
- Identify your strengths and weaknesses.
- Be an effective leader.

Let's be a positive force at the DOT and mentoring others with our positive attitude and actions.

Make time for mentoring!



"By making an effort to be a positive presence at work, you can improve employee morale among your coworkers and leave a lasting impression. Whether your actions are large or small, you can make a major difference."

Generational Knowledge

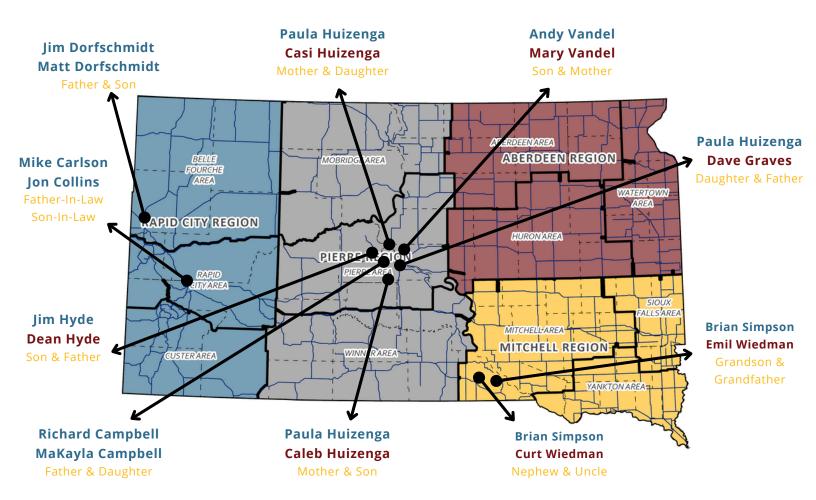
Decades of SDDOT Experience - Final Installment

For many of our colleagues, SDDOT has been the career choice among multiple generations. Positive SDDOT work experiences prompt future generations to seek education and experience to pursue a career within the SDDOT.

In last month's newsletter we took a look at the knowledge shared between grandparents, grandkids, aunt, uncles, nieces, and nephews within the SDDOT. This month we wrap up our generational knowledge series with a variety of relationships within the SDDOT who work together to build a better transportation system for South Dakota! The relationships below were submitted after previous newsletters were published, so it entails a variety of relationships!

We appreciate this generational story idea that was given through the Connecting the DOTs newsletter survey! This will be the final installment of the generational knowledge series. We had so much fun learning about the family connecting points throughout our department. Thank you to everyone who sent in responses with your generational ties.

Map Key: Current DOT employees are in blue text. Former DOT employees are in red text; and the relationship is noted in yellow. Arrows indicate the general area which the employees work/worked.

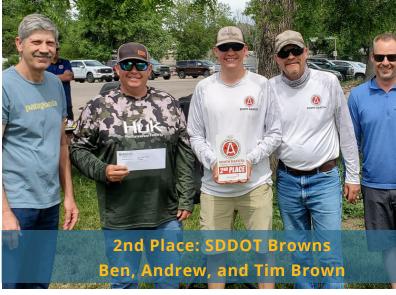


Thank you to all of those that contributed to making this series possible!

Results from AGC/DOT June 2022 Fishing Tournament

Secretary Jundt and Toby Royer (AGC member, Chair of the Tournament Committee) are pictured with the Tournament winners! Thanks to everyone who participated!













SDDOT Employee News and Updates . . .





In early June, SDDOT team members from the central office, Pierre vicinity area/region taped and stacked 1,000 boxes and boxed up three (plus) pallets of frozen foods for **Feeding South Dakota**.



Back row: Carol Evans, Branka Radulovic, Connie Johnson, Karla Engle, Mark Liang, Jon Egge, Scott Rabern, Tom Kallemyn, Kim Herrmann, Doug Gorham, Greg Pollreisz, and Joel Jundt

Front row: Lana Lambert, Sarah Gilkerson, Terri Boyle, Tiffany Hanisch, Christina Bennett, Brenda Thomas, and Kari Kroll

Comments about the team-building experience . . .

Sarah Gilkerson, Project Development (Central Office) – "The nice surprise is the personal connections made as we bump into each other, laugh, sweat, and generally goof around while accomplishing what is needed to help others. For me, learning that Kari K. is an ordained minister from the great internet machine was fascinating. Another bright moment was when Karla renamed the "Donation Room" to the "Willy Wonka Room" because it was such a random free for all! Oompa Loompa, I say."

Doug Gorham, Operations (Pierre Region) – "It is great getting to work in a different environment with all of you. What I find entertaining though is watching all of these highly intelligent people try to make a tape dispenser operate the way it should."

Tiffany Hanisch, LGA (Central Office) - "I really enjoy getting to know folks from various offices and being able to have conversations that aren't work related. The most entertaining part, though, was watching Secretary Jundt dodge the empty food boxes that folks were tossing as they packed boxes as fast as they could!" In which Secretary Jundt replied, "anyway to get my exercise."

A Pierre-based group gathered again on June 22, 2022. They prepared 13 pallets/650 boxes.

Back row: Scott Rabern, Jon Egge, Larry Dean, Neil Schochenmaier, Kari Kroll, Tom Kallemyn, Dave Coley, Greg Pollreisz, and Branka Radulovic

Front row: John DeBoer, Marilyn Patterson, Lisa Rombough, Tiffany Hanisch, and Coleen Kusser

Not shown in picture: Mark Liang and Sarah Gilkerson



SDDOT Employee News and Updates . . .

A Reflection on 50 Years . . . by Bob Hofer

June 5,1972 – my first day at SDDOT. I started at the Huron Residence Office now called Huron Area Office. I started as a technician making \$430 per month or \$2.48 per hour; daily per diem was \$6.50 per day. We were paid monthly back then.



My first day I was on a survey crew; we went out to a project and placed a few survey stakes. At 9 a.m. the survey crew chief looked at his watch and said coffee time. My first thought was that I fell into a good job. A few weeks later I was working on an asphalt resurfacing project working six days a week and 70-80 hours and staying out of town. One of my co-workers asked if I knew what I was getting into when I signed on.

I was the last man hired for 12 years; no turnover back then. I worked at the Huron Area Office until May 1998 on many construction projects. I always like working on town projects and concrete paving projects. I got a promotional opportunity in Pierre that I could not get in Huron. Ben Orsbon gave me a chance by hiring me, for which I am thankful for to this day. I worked in the Planning & Programs as a cost estimator. After three years I got the opportunity to be on the Operations Review Team. We traveled around the State every year reviewing projects. I got to meet DOT personnel from all over the State.

In February of 2014 I decided to retire after over 41 years. In 2018 I was asked if I wanted to work part-time in the Transit Office so from then until now I help the Transit Fun Team with bus inspections and construction projects. Seems like I always had coworkers I enjoyed working with. I got/get to work with many great folks.

Back when I started it was unheard of to personally know the Department Secretary or Division Directors. Today, our leadership strives to get to know and listen to employees. Folks will always find something to complain about, and I did too, but I know that working conditions are much better now than 50 years ago.

Engineer by day, cookie decorator by night, Logan Gran is bringing her custom cookie skills to Sioux Falls.

Logan owns and operates **One Smart Cookie**, a cookie-decorating business, out of her home as a side business while she works full time for the Department of Transportation.

"I love getting to share my talent with others and spark a little joy in other people's lives," said Gran. "Who knows? Maybe I can even inspire someone else to start a business of their own."

https://www.argusleader.com/story/news/business-journal/2022/06/06/custom-cookies-cookie-card-business-coming-sioux-falls/7529934001/?fbclid=lwAR0pFiDW1RgvTcUQLsxchfa7970a0Qmkzm5R1X6tFpzpV0WRrgTMoNtQUFc

SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .

June Longevity:

Kathy Brown, Highway Maintenance Worker - 40 Years (Winner Area)
Mark Fox, Survey Crew Chief - 30 Years (Watertown Area)
Brad Norrid, Project Engineer Supervisor - 30 Years (Winner Area)
Steve Kerr, Structural Team Lead Engineer - 10 Years (Central Office)
Julie Fanger, Right of Way Technician - 10 Years (Central Office)
Tammy Miller, Senior Secretary - 10 Years (Mitchell Region)
Greg Pollreisz, NSTRI Specialist - 25 Years (Central Office)
Josh Bench-Bresher, Asset Management Engineer - 20 Years (Central Office)
Drew Miler, Road Design Engineer - 10 Years (Central Office)
Darin Johnson, Road Design Engineer - 30 Years (Sioux Falls Area)



New Hires:

Jesse Knittel, Highway Maintenance Worker, Ipswich
Joshua Herman, Highway Maintenance Worker, Belle Fourche
Karl Hulin, Highway Maintenance Worker, Belle Fourche
Ruth Wittenhagen, Partsroom Technician, Mitchell
Evan Johnson, Highway Maintenance Worker, Ipswich
Bjerke, Jerry Highway Maintenance Worker, Webster

Promotions/Lateral Transfers:

Joel Lancaster, Materials Lab Tech, Pierre
Chad Howard, Surfacing Plans Engineer Manager, Pierre
Micah Howard, Concrete Mix Design Engineer, Pierre
Helen Squyer, Project Engineer, Rapid City
Matthew Trabing, Project Technician, Mitchell
Chad Babcock, Environmental Scientist Manager, Pierre
Tanner Bartscher, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, Sioux Falls



Bison Shop and Sign:

The SDDOT shop in Bison greets visitors with a unique and impressive sign. **Ben Card, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker,** made the metal sign for the shop.

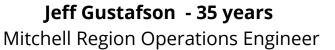
With the Bison shop located directly on S.D.

Highway 20, all motorists who pass through town also see the sign!

SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . . June Retirements









Clarence Gauer - 34 years

Highway Maintenance Worker in Ipswich



Dean Edgar - 4 yearsHighway Maintenance Worker in Faulkton

SDDOT Employee News and Updates... June Retirements

Joan Hakeman - 25 years (23 with SDDOT)
Senior Secretary, Watertown



Deb Nielsen - 45 years Senior Secretary, Brookings Office



Joe Feller - 37 years Chief Materials & Surfacing Engineer

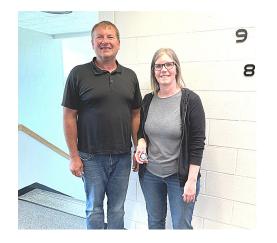
Doran Raymond (left) - 10 years Mark Nagel (right) - 35 years Mitchell Region Striping crew



SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .



Kenny Stolley, Sign and Striping Crew, receiving his 45 year pin from Darren Griese, Pierre Region Traffic Engineer.



Tammy Miller, Region Secretary, pictured with **Travis Dressen, Mitchell Region Engineer**, celebrating 10 years of providing excellent service in the Mitchell Region.



Kathy Brown, Kadoka Highway Maintenance
Worker, received her 40 year pin from Jason
Humphrey, Pierre Region Engineer, Doug
Sherman, Winner Area Engineer, and Jim Lolley,
Murdo Highway Maintenance Supervisor.

Lee Lindsley Metal Art

Lee Lindsley, Rapid City Materials
Technician, welds beautiful pieces of metal
art in his free time and recently completed
this sculpture of Yosemite Sam. This is the
8th sculpture he has done.

Yosemite Sam weighs just over 30 pounds and Lee attempts to make the sculpture never using the same materials.



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SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . . June Longevity Posts



Brad Norrid, Project Engineer Supervisor – 30 Years (Winner Area) receives his 30 year pin from **Doug Sherman, Winner Area Engineer**.



Mark Fox, Watertown Area Survey Crew Chief had his 30 year anniversary. Jeff Brink Engineering Supervisor - Watertown Area, gave Mark his longevity plaque/pin and noted, "Mark had his 30th anniversary yesterday, now he officially starts the second half of his SDDOT career today!"



Julie Fanger, Right of Way Technician in the Right of Way Program received her 10 year longevity pin from **Gerri Williams**.

First time grandma **Barb Spelbring**, **Pierre Area**, is proud to announce her new granddaughter, **Charlotte (Charlie) Lee Ann** born on May 18, 2022 weighing in at 7# 10 oz. and 21 inches.

As a one-month old, Charlie is already the star of a social media safety campaign in our "SDDOT

Counting On You" series!



